

**Claims**

1. A nutritional formula, wherein the pH of the formula, in its liquid state, is in the range of 3.5 to 6, wherein the formula comprises lactic acid and whereby at least 70% by weight of the lactic acid is present as the enantiomer of L-(+)-lactic acid, characterized in that the formula is directly acidified.
2. The nutritional formula according to Claim 1, which is a powdered nutritional formula.
3. The powdered formula according to Claim 1 or 2, characterised in that it is an infant formula.
4. The nutritional formula according to any of the preceding claims, further comprising a protein source, a carbohydrate source and/or a lipid source.
5. The nutritional formula according to Claim 4, wherein the protein source comprises a protein source selected from the group of whole or skimmed milk powder, casein, whey protein, soy protein, rice protein, carob seed protein, germ flour protein, and/or mixtures thereof.
6. The nutritional formula according to Claim 5, wherein the casein and/or whey protein is intact or not hydrolysed.
7. A method of preparing the nutritional formula according to any of Claims 1 - 6, comprising the steps of
  - hydrating a protein source and/or a carbohydrate source,
  - adding diluted L-(+) lactic acid to hydrated carbohydrate source and/or the hydrated protein source until a pH of about 3.5 – 6 is obtained.
8. The method according to Claim 7, comprising the further step of adding a lipid source.
9. The method according to Claim 8, wherein the step of adding a lipid source is conducted before adding L-(+) lactic acid.

10. The use of isolated or purified L(+)-lactic acid in the preparation of acidified nutritional formulas.
  11. The use of isolated or purified L(+)-lactic acid for preventing growth of pathogens in nutritional formulas.
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